



A Report from the Long Beach Unified School District Negotiating Team ■ June 8, 2006

## Frequently Asked Questions

Publication of the district's revised economic offer has generated a number of questions to which we will try to respond:

### Q. What are the economic components of the district's proposal?

- A. They are numerous:
- Base salary schedule increases
  - Longevity stipend improvement and increases
  - Easier access to last and highest paying column
  - Improved doctorate stipend
  - Incentives for speech pathologists
  - Step and column costs
  - Increase in district's payment of health insurance costs

### Q. How are costs stated?

A. The school district states costs as they equate to a percentage increase on the salary schedule. The easiest example is that a 4 percent increase to the salary schedule for a full year costs 4 percent. Step and column costs are estimated at 1.8 percent, etc. Some costs, such as the impact of easing requirements to move to the last and highest paying column must, of necessity, be estimated.

### Q. What is the cost of a 1 percent increase for teachers?

A. The district is using a figure of \$3.05 million for the general fund (restricted and unrestricted) cost of a 1 percent increase to the TALB K-12 Salary Schedule in 2005-06.

## Future Meetings

- June 9 (TALB Office)\*
- June 13, 28 (District Office)

\*Replaces May 30 meeting canceled by TALB; will start at 8 a.m. and carry no set ending time.

### Q. What is the time period for measuring the district's cost proposal?

A. It is the two-year period beginning July 1, 2005.

### Q. What are the two-year percentage costs of the district's economic proposal?

- A. 16.16 % as follows:
- |                               |          |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| • Base Salary                 | 10.24 %* |
| • Longevity                   | .64 %    |
| • Last, Highest Paying Column | .08 %    |
| • Doctorate                   | .02 %    |
| • Speech                      | .25 %    |
| • Step/Column                 | 3.63 %   |
| • Health Insurance            | 1.30 %   |

\*Compound effect.

### Q. How does this compare with the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)?

A. It exceeds the COLA (including deficit reduction and equalization). The proposal costs more than the COLA income for these two years. That is particularly so when factoring in the 0 percent COLA from the federal government for special education and the fact that categorically funded programs such as Class Size Reduction, Child Development Centers and Head Start do not receive deficit reduction or equalization funding. Lottery income is expected to decrease. Thus, a substantial portion of district programs will receive 5.92 percent or less. Head Start funding will be reduced by 1 percent.

### Q. If I am in my 30th year, what is the percentage increase in my longevity stipend?

A. 250 percent; the stipend will increase from \$2,000 to \$7,000; intermediate stipends (20 & 25 years) are increasing 150 percent and 125 percent respectively.

### Q. If I'm in the middle of the schedule, say Column 3 (213) Step K (currently \$59,524), what's my proposed increase effective July 1, 2006?

A. 13.8 percent; next year Step L will be \$67,763; this represents an increase in salary of \$8,239 annually or 13.8 percent.

### Q. Will teachers be able to vote on this proposal?

A. For this answer, please contact TALB.